



**WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 16, 2006**

**LOCATION:** Department of Health  
Creekside Three at Centerpoint  
20435 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South , Second Floor, Room 1  
Kent, Washington 98032

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Weatherly, CDP, Chair  
David R. Burkett, CDP  
Sharon Chambers, CDP  
Cathy Doran, CDP, LMHC  
Patricia Ike, CDP  
Deb Cummins, DSHS/DASA Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Betty Ingram, Program Manager  
Robert Nicoloff, Executive Director  
Tammy Kelley, Disciplinary Manager

**AAG PRESENT:**

Elizabeth Baker, Assistant Attorney General  
Geoff Hymans, Assistant Attorney General

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Approval of meeting agenda  
The June 16, 2006 meeting agenda was approved as written
- 1.2 Approval of the March 24, 2006 meeting minutes  
The March 24, 2006 meeting agenda was approved as written.

## **2. INTRODUCTION OF DEB CUMMINS- PAUL WEATHERLY, CDP**

- 2.1 Deb Cummins, was introduced as the Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Ex Officio representative to the Chemical Dependency Advisory Committee by Paul Weatherly.

Geoff Hyman indicated that this was his last meeting as Assistant Attorney General Advisor and introduced Elizabeth Baker. Ms. Baker will be taking Mr. Hyman's position as the Assistant Attorney General Advisor.

Robert Nicoloff introduced Betty Ingram as the interim program manager in Holly Rawnsley's absence.

## **3. REGISTERED COUNSELOR TASK FORCE-PAMELA LOVINGER, POLICY DIRECTOR**

- 3.1 Governor Gregoire Directed the Department to review the registered counselors credential in response to this, the department created a Registered Counselors task force. The Task Force is required to complete their review by September 1, 2006. The recommendations will address whether the department should continue to issue registration to counselors, and if so, what educational and experience requirements there should be.

Pamela Lovinger, Policy Manger, spoke about the Registered Counselor Task Force. Ms. Lovinger talked about the composition of the task force. Paul Weatherly expressed concern that that was not a Chemical Dependency Professional on the Task Force.

Ms. Lovinger indicated that there are currently over 17, 000 active registered counselors and over 430 active hypnotherapists in Washington State. She acknowledged that the department doesn't have a lot of information about the individuals who hold registrations as counselors, but currently there is no supervision, or exam requirements in order to become a registered counselor.

Ms. Lovinger shared that some registered counselor's are using the credential to obtain experience towards becoming Chemical Dependency Professionals, Mental Health Counselors, Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psychologists.

Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director has provided data relating to the number of registered counselor complaints. In the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year, 179 complaints were filed and disciplinary action was taken on 32 cases. In the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year 285 complaints were filed and disciplinary action was taken on 86 cases. The ratio of complaints to the number of providers is relatively low.

#### **4. PRESENTATION TO KATHYRN MARTIN**

- 4.1 Kathryn Martin was not present at the meeting, but Mr. Weatherly presented a plaque to Ms. Martin in appreciation of her service as a Chemical Dependency Professional representative to the Committee.

#### **5. PROGRAM REPORTS**

- 5.1 Budget Report  
The committee was provided the December 2005 Interim Operating Report. The Chemical Dependency Professionals program current balance is \$290,221.
- 5.2 Licensing Report  
Betty Ingram, Credentialing Manager, provided the licensing statistics for the Chemical Dependency Professionals program for March 2006 through May 2006. The current number of active, certified chemical dependency professionals as of May 30, 2006 is 2,563.
- 5.3 Disciplinary Report  
The committee members reviewed the disciplinary statistics provided by Tammy Kelley, Disciplinary Manager, for June, 2006.
- 5.4 Executive Director Report  
Mr. Nicoloff provided a response to Robin Roberts who is with the Department of Social and Health Services. This response was talked about the Department of Health's rules process. Mr. Nicoloff discussed a letter from Governor Gregoire to Mary Selecky. The letter addressed patient safety and summarized concerns raised in several recent newspaper articles. The Department of Health is currently focusing on these issues.  
  
Mr. Nicoloff provided a copy of a memo from Governor Gregoire to Brian Sonntag, State Auditor. Auditor Sonntag has been asked to conduct a performance audit of the current health professions discipline process and to identify areas of improvement. The memo addresses the specific areas Governor Gregoire would like to see included in the external audit.
- 5.5 Committee Appointments Update  
Michael L. Welpman has been appointed as a member of the certified Chemical Dependency Professional Advisory Committee his term of office is effective July 1, 2006-July 1, 2009.

The public member position is still vacant. This position requires that applicants must have received chemical dependency counseling.

## **6. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RULES AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS-PAUL WEATHERLY, CDP CHAIR**

- 6.1 Paul Weatherly talked about sexual misconduct related to the field of Chemical Dependency Professionals. Mr. Weatherly shared that Washington State recognizes the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) certification and requires the NAADAC examination for licensure.

The NAADAC "Code of Ethics," was shared and reviewed by attendees. It was determined that the current registered counselor sexual misconduct rules, WAC 246-810-049 are very broad and not as specific as NAADAC's.

In reviewing the Sexual Misconduct Rules for Stakeholder Review, the committee believed that some terms needed further defining, such as the term "Hugging." It is believed that hugging an upset child was much different than a sexual inviting hug. The committee feels that WAC 246-16-120(2) needs further clarification in the sense of timelines. It was suggested that WAC 246-16-120(2) should have an element added that refers to profession specifics and further defining how the law blends into interpretation of practice by providing guidelines for interpretation relevant to counselor professions.

## **7. BREAK**

## **8. DISCIPLINARY PROCESS-Tammy Kelley, Disciplinary Manger**

- 8.1 Tammy Kelley provided an overview of the disciplinary process relating to Chemical Dependency Professionals and Registered Counselors. Ms. Kelley provided insight into Department processes to provide a better understanding of why case investigations take the length of time that they do.

Ms. Kelley also shared that the standards used when reviewing application with criminal backgrounds is the same for all professions. The committee discussed the importance of CDP's being held to the same standards as all other professions.

## **9. COMMITTEE UPDATES-Paul Weatherly, CDP Chair**

- 9.1 Sharon Chambers, presented information for the credentialing sub-committee update. The sub committee had no new information to share at this meeting. They will continue to review the credentialing requirements from other states to determine substantial equivalency.

It was decided that the committee would divide the states for review and discuss the information found. The credentialing sub-committee includes: Paul Weatherly, Deb Cummins with Sharon Chambers as the lead.

- 9.2 David Burkett, provided the education sub-committee update. Mr. Burkett was faced with the challenge of looking at colleges around the state that provide CDP coursework and making the determination if they are meeting the 23 core competencies required by WAC. Of the nineteen schools he was able to get information from ten. Four schools have completely dropped their CDP programs.

None of the schools were consistent with their numbering systems or course content. Mr. Burkett was hopeful that by the next meeting he would be able to collect information on the remaining schools.

## **10. Credentialing Standards and Processes Brainstorm Session-Paul Weatherly, CDP Chair**

- 10.1 Mr. Weatherly indicated that the committee should focus on the presentation given by Ms. Lovinger. The 'Core Questions' from the Registered Counselor Task Force were discussed. There was consensus that it was important for Chemical Dependency Trainees be subject to the Uniform Disciplinary Act, while obtaining their experience hours.

The extreme shortage of Chemical Dependency Professionals in the state was a huge concern to all present. It was decided that if the registered counselor credential was done away with something would need to replace it. This would also require revising their WAC's relative to CDP trainees.

Many expressed concern that "the average consumer doesn't distinguish between registration and licensure." The committee would like to see terms like "CDP Intern" or "CDP in Process."

## **11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 11.1 The committee members discussed several items to be included on future meeting agendas. For the next meeting, the committee members would like to have the following items included:

Discussion on Standards of Supervision for Registered Counselors

Meeting dates for 2007.

The committee members would like the following items included on future agendas:

Presentation on the credentialing process by Betty Ingram, Credentialing Manager to include examples of the normal and exception application process

Presentation on the DOH Washington Health Professional Services

Presentation on the DOH investigation process to include the types of letters sent to the respondents

Presentation on the DOH rules process

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Signature on File

Betty Ingram, Program Manager  
Chemical Dependency Certification  
Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Signature on File

Paul Weatherly, CDP, Chair  
Chemical Dependency Certification  
Advisory Committee